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Historically Underrepresented Communities and Natural Disasters: How Does the Racial Makeup of a Natural Disaster Area Influence the President’s Response to Send Federal Aid?

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Abstract

Once a natural disaster strikes in the United States, the governor has the option to request federal assistance from the President. The President then has a choice to approve his or her request, deny it, or let it stand. But, the decision to delay the request or deny it can impact poor, black communities disproportionately. Accordingly, Reinhardt (2015, 22) highlights that the President’s rejection of the emergency aid can lead blacks to have a poor rate of public trust in the federal government to accommodate their needs in a similar and future disaster. Given blacks' low expectation towards the government, this research expands on Reinhardt's work through the analysis of the following three things: The first is discovering new data to see if the mistrust lingers in the long-run. The second is confirming if the cause of the skepticism is the government actions deepening economic and racial divides. The third is testing if the government can learn from past lessons. This innovation is important to the study of political science research because it focuses on the behavioral pattern of the federal government and the negative consequences of its actions that could affect the community. Also, with this research, the broader community could understand more fully the connection behind the racial division and the economic gap caused by the government during natural disasters.
Introduction

The research seeks to explain cause and effect between a natural disaster's racial demographic area and the response from the president based on race. The literature has not explored recent natural disaster events regarding the president's response to grant federal aid to a presidential-declared disaster zone nor critiqued the distribution of money during the recovery stage that appears to show racial preference. Studies have shown that poor black communities have suffered disproportionately (Chamlee-Wright and Storr 2009; and Finch, Emrich, and Cutter 2010; Kaiser, Eccleston, and Hagiwara 2008; and Myers, Slack, and Singelmann 2008). However, these studies (Chamlee-Wright and Storr 2009; and Finch, Emrich, and Cutter 2010; Kaiser, Eccleston, and Hagiwara 2008; and Myers, Slack, and Singelmann 2008) focus on one important event in American history Hurricane Katrina, the major outlier compared to other natural disasters. Katrina is seen as an outlier because it has brought many lessons to learn regarding the relationship between institutional racism and natural disasters.

From this lesson of Katrina, the research seeks to study further into the relationship between race and natural disasters by adding another variable, the federal government. With this new addition, this research will have a broader and more complete perspective in examining how race affects a federal government’s response to natural disasters and track its progress in learning from Katrina through other presidential administrations’ actions to aid the affected area in the stage of recovery. Furthermore, the results of this study reflect the presidential administrations of Bush, Obama, and Trump closely to highlight each performance as a positive or negative trend displaying the correction or the further decline of the government learning from their mistakes towards Katrina in 2005.
Specifically, one presidential administration’s performance from this study made a tremendous impact on the highlight of the government correcting past mistakes after Katrina. That one result seemed to be the Obama administration. The examination of two natural disasters, hurricanes and tornadoes gave evidence that President Obama was the only President sufficient to study not only hurricane recovery but also tornado recovery during his two-year tenure. The reason is that, during his eight years in office, he made a remarkable effort in reviewing the past actions of the federal government under Bush and making necessary changes to not repeat government incompetence in responding to natural disasters and communicating with the local government. Furthermore, in conjunction with the hurricane cases, the tornado cases revealed as well Obama’s methods in changing the image of the presidency from insensitive to receptive of the victim’s needs after a disaster. Nevertheless, an additional comparison of Obama’s administration to the newly formed Trump administration’s responses toward a tornado case showed the negative relapse of the government not correcting past actions, which led to supporting the hypothesis that the correction of the government’s errors was dependent upon who is in office at the time.

The case study comparison of government’s responses and natural disasters was the best method to analyze the results of Bush, Obama, and Trump’s reactions towards each natural disaster case through the evidence of the number of days it took to respond and their political party affiliations. These results indicated that government’s responses towards natural disasters is not contingent on the race of the president or the race of the community affected by the disaster, but by the political ideology of the president. The comparison of the number of days between Republican Presidents Bush and Trump seemed to increase; while the number of days for Democratic President Obama was standard at one-day responses. The evaluation among these
three presidents shows a strong correlation between political ideology and the governing of America by the values of liberalism and conservatism.

Furthermore, this newfound correlation of political ideology and governing America with liberal or conservative values to some extent qualifies the theory that race continues to influence the government’s response towards natural disasters. This potential explanation will be studied later in the future continuation of my research to provide a plausible answer. However, the current research does hint at a possible continuation that race is still directly influential to the government’s response that leads the white race to benefit from federal assistance more than minority communities. The reason is due to the conservative belief that people of color choose to live in areas of poverty and not better themselves economically, in comparison to the liberal belief that takes into consideration the systematical oppression that people of color face in areas of poverty and high risk of unemployment and toxic situations.

The paper is organized as follows: the remaining sections will include a historical background and emerging role of FEMA or the Federal Emergency Management Agency as the top governmental agency that work with the President in granting federal aid. The next one will be the literature review that summarizes research about Hurricane Katrina, Institutional and Structural Racism, and an improvement in moving past racial laws to confirm or challenge the hypothesis that race is a factor with the president’s response to send aid to natural disaster victims. The following section will be the outline of the research theory and design that concludes with the discussion of the results and broader implications of the conclusion.
The Historical Background and Role of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

The background and role of FEMA is an important one to the focus of this research regarding the action and response of government agencies towards natural disasters. This agency is the principal mediator between the national government’s negotiations with the local governments regarding federal aid for natural disasters. According to the FEMA’s web page “About the Agency,” the Federal Emergency Management Agency was created by President Jimmy Carter in 1979 to fulfill a mission to have the nation prepared for any natural disaster. Thus, since 1979, FEMA’s role has grown to be one of the leading agencies to instruct other government organizations such as the Homeland Security and other local and state governments across the country. Their role has expanded through educating the government, local, and state organizations to be prepared for natural and human-made disasters beforehand, and guiding them in how to financially help US Citizens and Qualified Aliens rebuild their lives again after a catastrophe.

Accordingly, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has five criteria they follow during a natural disaster. The five criteria related to emergency management and preparedness is mitigation, prevention, protection, response, and recovery (Homeland Security 2016). Homeland Security (2016) gives the definitions of the five criteria: both preparedness and prevention mean action from a community standpoint trickling from the local to the government level working simultaneously in protecting the citizens from a natural disaster. Second, mitigation means a discussion of "lessening the impact of a natural disaster" through experience and knowledge. Third, is the response of the organizations, federal and local level, to work hand in hand to serve
those vulnerable from disasters. Last, recovery is important because it focuses on an effective means to make a community resilient again towards a natural disaster.

However, sometimes the reconstruction process is not sufficient and can leave patterns of disarray and mistrust towards the federal government. These examples of non-efficient recovery stages and its connection with race and natural disasters will show itself in the literature review section.
Literature Review

Scholars Stivers (2007) and Finch, Emrich, and Cutter (2010) have argued that racism plays an influential role in government regulations and policies that are static and never ending. This negative connotation of racism as always being part of law seems to be a fact accepted based on America’s history. However, as political scientists, it is our duty to question patterns of racism in our society and break the cycle of racial discrimination. With this in mind, the innovation in the literature review is to show that racism is a dynamic problem not only for minorities but also for the global image of the United States as a melting pot of various races and cultures. Furthermore, the innovation will express that through disasters; the government is gradually learning how to break ties in their adoption of race in their policies and treatment towards victims of a natural disaster.

Scholarly experts on Katrina agree that Hurricane Katrina was not a natural disaster by itself but became one due to the "masked" racism involved in past institutional policies that had a high risk of vulnerability (Stivers 2007; Finch, Emrich, and Cutter 2010; and Myers, Slack, and Singelmann 2008). This risk of vulnerability was in place by laws that implemented a segregated New Orleans with the majority of the poor, black, and the uneducated population living in areas prone to high exposure from deadly disasters. Stivers (2007, 48) argues that the local government and FEMA knew this liability before Hurricane Katrina struck the Louisiana coast: "Masked" racism can exploit racial gaps economically through the actions of the government.

Accordingly, Finch, Emrich, and Cutter (2010) and Hoyt (2012) show that racism is a complicated issue to define. Specifically, Hoyt (2012, 225) defines racism "as a particular form of prejudice defined by erroneous beliefs about a member of the racial group." Unfortunately,
these false accusations against minorities create a false perception, whether conscious or unconscious, towards victims placed in their predicament against their will. For example, Finch, Emrich, and Cutter (2010, 180) explain that the victims of Hurricane Katrina made choices based on their circumstances formed by not only their race but class and gender as well. Therefore, this piece of evidence circulates back to the revelation that race is a complicated subject and an ever present decision factor for those in poverty because of its hazardous implementation on minorities’ livelihoods’ when intertwined with class and gender.

Comparatively, racism is not only a complicated subject but also is a static disadvantage in the recovery from natural disasters. To elaborate, pre-Katrina and post-Katrina both showed signs of individual and institutional racism that has immobilized the process of recovery (Kaiser, Eccleston, and Hagiwara 2008; Chamlee-Wright and Storr 2009; and Finch, Emrich, and Cutter 2010). Finch, Emrich, and Cutter (2010, 184-185) show that race has institutionalized itself into the categorization of placing whites in a neighborhood category with "low susceptibility" to recover faster than blacks and other minorities in neighborhoods with "high endangerment." This institutionalization of racism is not one to easily push to the side. The reason is that the origin of institutional racism is one that is also interdisciplinary and factors not only race but also class and gender.

Myers, Slack, and Singelmann (2008) agree with Finch, Emrich, and Cutter (2010) that social vulnerability mixed with race, class, and gender, can be detrimental to minorities treated wrongly during the recovery stage of a natural disaster. For instance, Finch, Emrich, and Cutter (2010, 181) argue that "[s]ocial vulnerability is the product of social stratification and inequalities." In other words, any attempt to contain minorities in poverty areas with a high peril
of destruction is a social vulnerability that is a negative consequence and can cause the 
minorities to remove themselves from the situation by migrating to other cities (Myers, Slack, 
and Singelmann 2008, 274). Hence, social vulnerability is part of the devastating, long-lasting 
effect racism has on displaced minorities as individuals to force them to leave their residences 
behind for better opportunities elsewhere.

As a matter of fact, research by Kaiser, Eccleston, and Hagiwara (2008) agree that racism 
on an individual level is an ever present problem since blacks are more prone than any other race 
to "experience injustice and disadvantage." Moreover, Chamlee-Wright and Storr (2009, 618) 
argues that racism and natural disasters are two main factors that cause displacements and a 
transformation of the sense of place. In other words, a sense of place can be a collective identity 
such as a community that is close-knit as the Ninth Ward a majority black community located in 
New Orleans. Unfortunately, the residents in this specific community have been forced to make a 
decision to rebuild their community on their own without government assistance or leave and 
find another sense of belonging (Chamlee-Wright and Storr 2009, 616-619). According to this 
past scholarship, Chamlee-Wright and Storr (2009, 616) has gathered evidence of mixed results 
to return and to leave. On that account, racism as an individual problem is indeed a deep-rooted 
force that caused New Orleans to lose a percentage of its black population to involuntary 
displacement.

Correspondingly, the migration of minorities is the consequence caused by government 
actions that made the recovery process one that was unbearable and discriminatory towards 
minority victims, who needed their help the most. According to Flanagan, et al. (2011) and 
Saucier, Smith, and McManus (2007), the displacement during the recovery of Hurricane Katrina
was that of FEMA or the Federal Emergency Management itself, and their policies and methods were discriminatory and confusing at best. For example, Chamlee-Wright and Storr (2009, 616) shows that after the first anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, the residents of the Ninth Ward had low expectations that the Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) would return to repair their dilapidated houses. The reason is that their confidence in the government agency to be impartial and help minorities became deflated from their lack of concern. Stivers (2007, 51-52) shows some examples of Federal Emergency Management Agency's lack of interest towards the victims through the agency ordering "455 buses instead of the 500 requested by the governor" and "denying black minority business loans." These policies adopted by Federal Emergency Management are none other than factors of institutional racism that seems to be durable in the relationship between the minorities' needs and the self-interest of the government.

This recurring theme of racism deep rooted in political institutions appears to delve deeper within political ideologies connected to prejudicial mindsets. Congruent to the research of Chambers, Schlenker, and Colisson (2012), alongside Omi and Winant (2015) display a fixed perspective of race as the agent shaping political ideologies such as the conservative and liberals and their bilateral perspective of the world. Similarly, the results from Chambers, Schlenker, and Colisson (2012, 4) acknowledge the connection between race and political ideology as Whites being conservative and Blacks being liberal. Also, the results revealed that each political ideology connected to their individual race were not favorable to the other due to different values that represent each ideology (Chambers, Schlenker, and Colisson (2012, 4, 6). Therefore, these results show that race is the means to put everything into specific categories such as the political ideology a person identify with to another's person construction of values that are for affirmative action or self-reliance.
Nonetheless, there must be a timeframe where race gradually fades from not only institutional policies but also every aspect of our life as well. There is two significant research by Bonilla-Silva and Dietrich (2011) and Cohen (2011) that speaks on this subject. Both scholars speak on former President Obama's election in 2008 as a symbol of a post-racial society. Bonilla-Silva and Dietrich (2011, 198) opposes this post-racial or colorblind ideology that festered in 2008 by stating he was a symbol of "possibilities": black people's aspirations to progress further in society. While into his presidency, he distinguished himself from the politics and "transcended" himself to be not "too black" but be lesser black to please white supporters (Bonilla-Silva and Dietrich 2011, 199). Therefore, Obama's presidency became split into two and more divided than ever by being a symbol of both white and black's dreams for America.

Nevertheless, from his presidency came a sign of hope that a post-racial society was on its way from the votes made by the millennials. Even though this glimmer of hope was at its beginning stage, Cohen's (2011, 4) results presented that young people across race and ethnicity were evidence to show that the millennials were the future of "political agreement and tolerance." However, the concept of race equality among white, black, and Latino youth was not in one accord with the fact that blacks and other minorities were still facing racial persecution (Cohen 2011, 5). For this reason, the glimmer of hope for millennials as the trailblazers to begin a post-racial society could become diminished by this lack of agreement that race is still a vital and powerful factor in every American's life and still needs room for improvement.

To conclude, the summary of the past literature has shown that its weakness is perceiving race as just another problem that is fixed and ever present in the American society. The literature demonstrated this concept through Hurricane Katrina's exploitation of the government adoption
of racist policies and lack of concern for those who were black and in poverty. Also, the scholarly research has revealed Obama's election as part of a twenty-first-century theory of race being dead and living in a post-racial and colorblind society. However other recent scholars Bonilla-Silva and Dietrich (2011) and Cohen (2011) have argued against this notion and have given evidence of race still being an interdisciplinary and omnipresent issue. Despite the recognition of race as an ever-present part of American society, the literature misses that race is dynamic in itself. It is dynamic because it touches not only on the suffering of minorities but touches also on the concept of white supremacy and their false belief that minorities have already accomplished equal footing with the privileged white society due to past civil right laws put in place for their benefit to have equal rights and representation.

Therefore, the question posed by the literature is can there be a progressive change regarding the federal government's discriminatory actions and response towards minorities? The examination of this inquiry will demonstrate the innovation of tracing the government's actions from Hurricane Katrina as the lesson learned in 2005 to the present day in 2017. This alteration will include an insight into the transformation of the presidential administrations every four years to show if this implementation of a progressive society is gradually diminishing race through the head of the government and his fellow agencies.
Theory

Before explaining how each natural disaster area’s ethnic population will be useful for this study, it is first important to give an explanation of the theory of aggregating racial compositions based on areas affected. Firsthand, the definition of an affected zone is a particular county in a state that was damaged by the storm severely through massive flooding. The research's primary focus was to target specific counties within the states, to obtain a broad range of information on the racial composition of the area and how it recovered compared to other counties that were composed of different races. For example, the operationalization of a neighborhood or an area that mostly contains Whites would identify itself as economically advantaged due to that particular race having the necessary requisites to recover faster than those of a minority community such as an African American or Latino neighborhood. These minority communities are deemed as economically disadvantaged because signs of less recovery growth would establish a hindrance of financial assistance from the federal institutions in rebuilding their neighborhoods completely and better than before.

Given this explanation, the theory includes an expansion of the racial composition of disaster areas with mostly Whites, African Americans, and Latinos, to compare and test each racial demographic area's affect towards the president’s response to send aid. The president’s response will base itself on the number of days it took him to respond to the catastrophe and if it was one of rejection or not. Also, there is an expansion of natural disaster cases that begins with Hurricane Katrina in 2005 to the present day. The two natural disaster cases will involve hurricanes and tornadoes. The first set of scope conditions for the hurricanes is Katrina and Rita in the year 2005 that struck New Orleans, Louisiana, Hurricane Ike in the year 2008 that hit
Houston, Texas, and Hurricane Sandy in the year 2012 that hit New Jersey. The fifth hurricane is a more recent event that occurred in the past year as Hurricane Matthew in the year 2016 that hit South Carolina. Likewise, there will be an additional factor the scope conditions mentioned above. The addition will include data of the racially composed areas of South Carolina, New Jersey, Houston, and New Orleans before the natural disaster.

The second set of scope conditions for the tornado cases were varied in years as well. The conditions involved the 1969 tornado in Mississippi, the 2011 tornado that struck Missouri, the 2014 tornado in Arkansas, and the 2017 tornado in Lauderdale County, Mississippi, and Cook County, Georgia. However, there was a complication in finding the racial composition of Mississippi in 1969. Therefore, to replace the error, the present census in 2015 was used as evidence to show that the area where the tornado hit indeed was a majority black population.

In addition, the theory has two hypotheses to further study the relationship between race, natural disasters, and government responses. The first hypothesis is the racial makeup of the victims could influence the quick response, delay, or rejection of the president to approve the emergency aid. The second hypothesis states whether the federal government’s correction of its past errors could be dependent upon who is in office at the time and their agenda on natural disasters.

Accordingly, the two general assumptions of this research were that the president’s response would be a delay in offering federal aid to both the racial makeup areas of Latinos and African Americans while responding quickly to one with a racial makeup of mostly Whites. The second one refers specifically to the connection of the federal aid being given promptly to US-Born Latinos than Foreign-Born ones. Naturally, the initial expectation is the
racial makeup of the victims during the time of the natural disasters will differ in regards to
the level of response by the president to confirm if the government can learn from their past
errors and correct them from each presidential administration. Meanwhile, the research's first
observable implication was the majority composition of African Americans and Latinos as
the primary races in poverty that could lead to discrimination against them in the course of
recovery after a natural disaster. The second obvious implication was the US-Born Latinos
being treated a little bit more equitably as they have the necessary pre-requisites as citizens to
receive federal aid that Foreign-Born Latinos lack.

Finally, the identification of the independent variable was race, categorized by Whites,
African Americans, and Latinos, who self-identified as US-Born and Foreign-born. The
dependent variable, the levels of responsiveness by the president, was measured as the number of
days for a quick or delay response and a rejection or non-rejection was measured with a yes or a
no. The presidents in this study were President Nixon, Bush, Obama, and Trump, with their
particular political affiliation categorized as Republican or Democrat.
Research Design

The study design entails a method known as Structured Focus Comparison, which is an in-depth qualitative analysis between-case design. The validity is the use of a formal focus comparison of five hurricane cases and five tornado cases with similar settings of a natural disaster area with different variables of race that affect different outcomes regarding the response of the president. The hypotheses and obvious implications helped set pre-establish questions for gathering qualitative data to compare each case and their outcome of attaining cumulative knowledge of the research question in how racial composition affects the behavioral analysis of the president.

The first implementation of the study is through structured focus comparison by identifying a data set that relates to the racial composition of South Carolina, New Jersey, Houston, and New Orleans, before the hurricanes. The evidence includes gathering books and articles about the federal government’s past responses to assist African American and Latino neighborhoods, in comparison to White neighborhoods, to find a pattern of treatment for both minority races. Also, it includes seeking out newspaper articles to collect evidence regarding casualties and the extent of damage to White, African American, and Latino neighborhoods in South Carolina, Texas, New Jersey, and New Orleans, by Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Rita, Hurricane Ike, Hurricane Sandy, and Hurricane Matthew.

The second implementation of the study is a structured focus comparison based on five similar tornado cases that ranged from the years 1969, 2011, 2014, and 2017 within Mississippi, Missouri, Arkansas, and Georgia. The evidence came from numerous newspaper articles such as CNN and ABC News that shows the effect of the damage of the tornadoes in the areas and tracks
the president’s response to the disaster. Also, evidence came from websites that contain historical newspapers that gave an account of what happened in the affected areas by the tornado in 1969 within Mississippi and an account of the duties of President Nixon during his tenure as President of the United States during the 1969 Mississippi tornado.

Likewise, the evidence includes the examining of scholarly articles that grants proof of a pattern of how US-Born Latinos are treated compared to Foreign-Born Latinos access to federal aid or assistance from the federal government after the series of hurricane and tornado cases. Furthermore, it includes the accumulation of newspaper and scholarly articles that provided exactly which counties the hurricanes and tornadoes hit in each state prompting further research on their racial composition and treatment from the federal government during the recovery of the natural disaster. After the accumulation of enough evidence, a table was created to give a visual aid to the evidence mentioned and track the progress of each case.

The tables kept track of the year the hurricane and tornado struck the area, which neighborhoods were affected by the disaster, and their particular racial compositions to find the majority and minority race populations. Also, it kept track with the percentage of Latinos as US-Born or Foreign-Born in the county of each state that was affected by the hurricanes and tornados. Moreover, another table was added to track how many days it took the president to respond, the president at the time, and his response as yes or no for each request.

In selecting the various racial demographic data for each case from the "United States Census Bureau," it was imperative that the control variable for each natural disaster was similar to each other. For the hurricane cases, each one had to be analogous to Hurricane Katrina in regards to the flooding. For the tornado cases, one had to be similar to the most recent case,
which was one of the most deadly Winter Tornado Storms that hit Mississippi and Georgia; while the other two cases occurred in the regular tornado season during the spring. Thus, for each county affected by the two natural disasters individually, race demographics were included that gave insight into the race of the victims that were affected by them.

Finally, the consideration of a behavior analysis became implemented in finding past evidence of patterns of how the president responded to the affected area after a natural disaster, which came through FEMA the majority of the time, and the uncovering of new data to reveal the process of recovery of minority neighborhoods afterward. Likewise, an evaluation was necessary for both President Bush and Obama's actions and responses to the hurricanes that struck Louisiana in 2005, Texas in 2008, New Jersey in 2012, South Carolina in 2016. While also evaluating the actions of President Nixon, Obama, and Trump's actions towards the tornado incidents in Mississippi in 1969 and 2017, Missouri in 2011, Arkansas in 2014, and Georgia in 2017.
**Results and Discussion of The Case of the Hurricanes**

The evidence supported the hypothesis by showing that regardless of the racial makeup of the counties and cities, within the affected areas, the president still responded to the disaster. However, an action of hesitation creates a negative consequence of those that are victims of a natural disaster, such as the case of Hurricane Katrina that had a five-day delay response, which led people to believe it was due to the race of the victims. Nevertheless, in Hurricanes Rita, Ike, Sandy, and Matthew, it was shown that the federal government did learn gradually from their mistakes regarding the perception of race. To explain, both President Bush and Obama learned from each of their individual preparation technique to be watchful of the storm beforehand and communicate more closely with the local and state governments. Also, their responsive timeframes improved tremendously from a five-day response to one with a day or two response. Overall, it seemed that the first case study, Hurricane Katrina, was seen as the standard to avoid in the future due to the miscommunication between the government and the state as well as the effect of racism in the law that caused more minorities to mistrust the government during and after a natural disaster.

Specifically, Hurricane Katrina was an unfortunate event in the United States that affected the city of New Orleans in 2005. Anglin (2010) showed that Hurricane Katrina was evidence of discriminatory patterns of “historical and structural racism” playing a direct role through laws and policies that had been passed by Louisiana law to immobilize those concentrated in areas near the levees that were unfit to weather the storm (45). One of the regions, the Orleans Parish, had a concentration of mostly African Americans living in poverty. The Orleans Parish was one of the many sectors that had been entirely flooded by the storm.
According to the US Census in 2000, provided by the “New Orleans, Louisiana Population (2012),” New Orleans’ race demographic was dominantly 67.25% African-American, 28.05% White, 3.06% Latino, and 2.26% Asian. Also, among the population in New Orleans, “30% of the residents were poor” and thus unable to evacuate safely before the storm hit (Walsh 2015). Unfortunately, “more than 1,000 people” lost their lives that fateful year (Walsh 2015). Based on this statistical data, the majority black population of New Orleans was economically disadvantaged. Since many people lived in poverty and did not have the means to evacuate safely from the affected area.

Nevertheless, what made it unforgettable were the actions of the Republican President George H.W. Bush Jr. and the federal government. An example of this tragic event in history and the uncaring persona of the federal government was a report by Mark Knoller (2015), who recounted Bush’s actions from August 28-September 4. The CBS reporter stated that the hurricane did not make landfall until August 29th and it took President Bush approximately five days to sign a “$10.5 billion emergency funding bill for hurricane relief” for the state of Louisiana (Knoller 2015). This delay gave President Bush and his cabinet a grim appearance of being distant and not caring about the African American lives lost in the hurricane. In the next couple of years, the hope was that the state and the federal government would learn from this disaster in how to better prepare and manage recovery after a natural disaster.

The anticipation came sooner than later with Hurricane Rita coming about a month behind Hurricane Katrina. This storm hit New Orleans and some parts of Texas again. Nonetheless, the seven casualties from Hurricane Rita were not the same compared to the thousands of lives taken a month prior by Hurricane Katrina (Erdman 2015). This time with a
lower death toll, President Bush acted with a quick response in aiding not only New Orleans but Texas as well. According to CBS News, President Bush took on some new endeavors to make the government “well organized and well prepared” to battle this second storm that had “struck the Gulf Coast” almost back to back with Katrina (Roberts 2005). His quick response without hesitation led him to respond to Rita in one to two days without any setbacks. His awareness of Hurricane Katrina and the backlash of national criticism he received from the people towards the federal government quickly turned the tables to make him notice the importance of the teamwork between the state and the federal government working together to provide relief and financial aid for the victims of natural disasters regardless of race.

The federal government's actions towards New Orleans during Hurricane Rita and Hurricane Katrina had different outcomes regarding their response levels from indifference to involvement. This noted difference in response levels is crucial to this research, and will be further examined to show just how this tragedy has affected New Orleans, the poor blacks, and other minorities during the time of recovery in three stages: the aftermath, eight years later and ten years later. First, FEMA initially refused to assist both races in recovery. Per a report to the United Nations by Monique Harden, Nathalie Walker, and Kali Akuno (2007), revealed that the majority African American population were forcefully displaced from their homes and put in toxic situations. An example, within the report, is the African Americans were relocated and put into trailers that contained Formaldehyde that was harmful to their health; while their homes and other public housing became abandoned in a demolish state after the storm (Harden, Walker, and Akuno, 2007, 7). This forceful displacement was truly a violation of their human rights as well as a health and environmental hazard.
In respect to the Latinos, the goal of this research was to test if US-Born Latinos fare better in receiving financial aid since they have the necessary requisites than Foreign-Born Latinos. The answer, presented in the Appendix section of this paper is that US-Born Latinos is safe under the guidelines of FEMA; but those born in another country are not. An example is the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina where migrant workers mostly from Honduras were paid below the minimum wage and put in health hazard conditions to rebuild New Orleans by the United States Department of Labor (Fletcher, Stover, Pham, and Vinck, 2007, 110-111). Therefore, this discrimination was also a violation of the human rights of the Latino migrant workers. Nevertheless, FEMA learned from their mistakes and sought to change guidelines for eligibility and attempted to prevent discrimination in the recovery of affected areas by the hurricanes that struck the shores of the United States after Katrina.

Eight years ago, in 2013, New Orleans reported seeing a high increase in their neighborhoods. (Waller 2013). This improvement bases itself on FEMA's outstanding work in the recovery stage. For example, the Federal Emergency Management Agency worked closely with Louisiana's Recovery Executive Director to bring to New Orleans at least "nearly $19.6 billion dollars to homeowners in New Orleans." This funding included "the $11.9 billion in public assistance funding to help build bridges, roads, and other infrastructures damaged by the storm" (Louisiana Recovery: Eight Years after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, 2013). Nevertheless, the use of FEMA's money by the local government was one that caused much displacement in the poor black community. Waller (2013) reported that the metro area was booming with entrepreneurship with "501 business startups;" yet, there was also increase in unemployment and crime in the city.
Ten years later, Cheryl Corley (2015) reported that a racial gap had emerged in New Orleans East where "low laying lands were destroyed to build a park that now hosts a community center and clubs." In other words, the money given by FEMA to the local government to rebuild New Orleans to its former glory became the state's chance to replace low-income living with a high living cost that benefits whites and replaces the black minorities in abandoned neighborhoods with no chance to be employed. It seems where the federal government had improved in its attitude and actions toward New Orleans; the local government took for granted to discriminate and displace blacks again in the most impoverished and abandoned areas in the city. This recovery update on New Orleans shows that indeed the federal government can learn from past mistakes, but the local government seems to lack the skill of learning from theirs. Therefore, the transformation of mistrust will shift naturally towards the local government due to its racist recovery policies.

Nonetheless, the effort of the government to continue its quest to improvement continued in 2008 with the touchdown of Hurricane Ike. One of the affected areas in Texas was none other than Houston. Many people lost their lives to Hurricane Ike. According to Gabrielle Banks (2015), there were 74 casualties linked to the hurricane in Houston, Texas. Appropriately, Bush's actions were very rapid with a one-day response after the storm struck his home state. Even though in the year of 2000, Houston had a majority White population with 49.42%, followed by 37.28% of Latinos, 25.21% Blacks, and 5.33% Asians, it was clear that the majority White population in Houston was an economically advantaged group ("Houston, Texas Population 2012"). The reason is that they had financial support from the President to provide for its needs of recovery. However, Bush's futile efforts in correcting his delayed response to the majority African-American victims in New Orleans was not enough for another Republican candidate to
be the next leader. It transferred to the former Democratic President Barack Obama. Within his presidency, his strategy to natural disasters was more swift, empathetic, and organized than that of President Bush's.

In regards to Houston's recovery from Hurricane Ike, the community has come together to make Houston more resilient than ever from future hurricanes that might come through. This recovery stage is presented five years later, in 2013. According to Ed Emmett (2013, 10), the County Judge and Director of Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, declared that Houston had made an enormous local community and teamwork effort with the federal and local emergency planning agencies to improve its local agencies' training and response to natural disasters. Also, the city has completed numerous projects in rebuilding single family homes, roads, and other infrastructures (Emmet 2013, 6). Overall, this evidence points out that states can learn just as the government can the importance of working as a team to improve the conditions of a community than dividing it further socially and economically as what appeared in the recovery of New Orleans. Houston learned that the best remedy to recover from natural disasters is not racial division but love and support from fellow Texans of all colors, local agencies, non-profit organizations and federal agencies no matter how large or small.

An example of Obama’s innovative technique is the response to the next deadliest storm to hit the American shores known as Hurricane Sandy in 2012. Hurricane Sandy struck New Jersey mercilessly with as much flooding as Hurricane Katrina. According to the report of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2013), it reported 117 total deaths were New Jersey accounted for 34 or 29.1%. Specifically, in the Union City located in Hudson County, there
were power outages and a problem with flooding (Mungin and Fantz 2012). The flooding caused “over seven million dollars’ worth of damage to county facilities,” specifically in cities and towns within Hudson County (Conte 2012). The racial composition of Union City is different from those already mentioned with white majority cities or counties because it is dominantly populated by Hispanics at 84.7%, following 58% of Whites, Blacks 5.2%, and Asians at 2.4% (“United States Census Bureau 2010”). Again, despite these numerical data, President Obama’s response was very quick with a one-day response towards Union City with a majority Hispanic population that is economically disadvantaged and the entire New Jersey state as a whole.

One of the strategies that President Obama grasped earlier than President Bush was a teamwork effort with the state and local government. According to the White House Government Report’s “An Ongoing Response to Hurricane Sandy (2016),” it displayed the Obama administration's actions as genuine. One of those actions were the travels to New Jersey, New York, and other states struck by the natural disaster to assess the damage and speak to local leaders (“An Ongoing Response to Hurricane Sandy, 2016). As a note, the president and federal government’s empathetic actions expanded further in helping prepare New Jersey for the coming of the hurricane and afterward successfully assisting the coast of New Jersey to full recovery so that they could open the following summer in 2013 (Slack 2013). His actions were those of a person who was the leader and face of this nation. Thus, as the president, it is important that he be with the natural disaster victims and feels empathetic to their loss. Most importantly, he must have a personality to encourage others and bring hope back into their lives.

President Obama's concern and determination to help New Jersey rebuild itself from the ground up after Hurricane Sandy proved successful. During the fourth anniversary of Sandy
hitting New Jersey, Governor Chris Christie commented that New Jersey had recovered
tremendously from Sandy and had made changes by "relocating and raising substations"
(Eyewitness News 2016). Also, the state government decided to make changes to the landscape
by building " an enormous steel wall on the beach" to keep the waves from coming to shore and
cause future flooding (Associated Press 2016). Therefore, these advantageous precautions are a
step in a right direction in preventing New Jersey from massive flooding that seemed to be
missing from New Orleans recovery process.

These values of prevention became transferred into the next hurricane in the year 2016.
This deadly storm came during the presidency of Obama, and it was known as Hurricane
Matthew. This natural disaster truly was one to fear. It displaced the Haitians from Haiti to the
coast of Florida and threatened to do the same to the shores of the United States. Specifically, the
study focused on Charleston, South Carolina in Charleston County. The death toll was minimal
to only four casualties in the state (Grinberg 2016). The extent of damage was very deadly with
flooding from the break of the seawall and hours of rain, which caused many people to be
without power (Rayford 2016). The US Census for 2015 counted the racially advantaged
majority White population with 77.1%, following 17.6% Latinos, 13.3% Blacks, and 5.6%
Asians% (“United States Census Bureau 2016”). According to Sean Griffin (2016), the
Whitehouse Blog reporter, the continuous effort to South Carolina is still in the works. President
Obama is meeting with his staff and the director of FEMA to send aid to South Carolina, North
Carolina and other states that were affected by the natural disaster (Griffin 2016). Therefore, the
hopes and prayers in the next presidential administration led by Republican nominee Donald
Trump are that they too will continue the legacy of the federal government’s continuous effort to
work in close collaboration with the local government.
Currently, FEMA is offering financial assistance for the South Carolina natural disaster victims to rebuild their lives again after the waning months following the hurricane. According to FEMA's news release, "Stressed Hurricane Matthew Survivors Getting Help from Carolina United Crisis Counseling Program 2017," states that FEMA is granting money towards the South Carolina Department of Mental Health (SCDMH) and its Carolina United (CU) program. These funds will help the Carolina United program to help the psychological health of the victims in recovering from their loss ("Stressed Hurricane Matthew Survivors Getting Help from Carolina United Crisis Counseling Program 2017"). The Federal Emergency Management Agency acts of kindness towards the victims of Hurricane Matthew in South Carolina are important to note because it reflects their responsibility and duty in their mission to prepare and mitigate the American nation for future natural and human-made disasters.
Results and Discussion of the Case of Tornadoes

Tornadoes, according to "US Disaster Statistics (2017)," are the most deadly compared to floods because they occur during a storm, which affects people the most. However, winter tornadoes are the rarest of all and dangerous (Lam 2017). According to Linda Lam (2017), there are four reasons: the first is because "it occurs during the hours of darkness, offseason, is faster, and it always happens in the south." In other words, tornadoes usually form during the seasons of spring and summer where there are more hours of daylight than less. Without these factors, winter cyclones are deemed as deadly because they strike without warning mostly before sunrise. Respectively; these winter tornadoes have a record of wreaking havoc throughout the southern states. The highest casualties reported in US history by Chris Dolce (2017) is one that occurred on January 1969, where there were 32 fatalities and the second largest was the most recent one in January 2017, that hit Georgia and Mississippi.

Besides the previous two winter tornadoes mentioned in the above paragraph, there will also be two other cyclones analyzed in this study that is common to the United States in the spring season. The first tornado struck Joplin, Missouri in May 2011 and the second one hit Arkansas in April 2014. Fortunately, these two tornadoes were during the presidential administration of President Obama. As already noted in his previous experiences with hurricanes, President Obama has exceptional knowledge of how to communicate with the local government and be a present figure in the lives of victims helping them through the process of recovery. Thus, it is important in this study to compare his past actions and experiences with tornadoes with none other than the new President-elect Donald Trump.
Remarkably, these two deadliest tornadoes had in common not only forming during the winter season but had two presidents who were affiliated with the Republican Party and beginning their first terms, President Richard Nixon and President Donald Trump. Also, it seems both Presidents were facing other issues during their first week in office. For President Nixon, it was the Vietnam War, and for President Trump, it was the global and domestic criticism towards his series of Executive Orders not coinciding with the values of America as a haven for those fleeing from persecution. Nevertheless, both Presidents responded differently to the situation that took place.

During President Nixon’s first term as president, the January 1969 tornado first struck Mississippi in three counties, and one of them was a poverty stricken location with blacks as the majority. According to Stu Beitler (2017), his report established that three tornadoes total struck Simpson County, Smith County, and Copiah County, where it was majority black. Unfortunately, three tornadoes took 32 people lives that day on January 23rd. Specifically, it killed eleven people in Hazelhurst, when it touched down at 5:25 pm and injured a total of 241 people ("The Most Important US Tornadoes by State"). This unfortunate event became part of American History and a quick decision from the Office of President Nixon. As reported by John Woolley and Gerhard Peters (2017), President Nixon, on January 25th, 1969, announced he was granting money to Mississippi for natural disaster relief.

Now, there is no evidence suggesting that race was a factor in the president's response to Mississippi nor was there an indication of a census for the racial demographics for Copiah County in 1969. However, the "United States Census Bureau" can give us an idea of what Copiah County was as a racial demographic through the Census of 2015: it was majority Black
with 51.4%, following 46.9% White, 2.9% Latino, and 0.4% Asian. Therefore, with no evidence of race as a factor affecting President Nixon's effort to decide on federal assistance for Mississippi, it will be merely a case study of comparison for the actions of both former President Obama and newly-elected President Trump's first encounter with a natural disaster as the President of the United States. Unfortunately, President Trump’s actions were not as efficient as those of former President Nixon and former President Obama.

Though before President Trump's actions are discussed, it is necessary to keep the chronological order in perspective of each President's term in office to see the trend in their responses over time. The next president to be analyzed is the former President Barack Obama; since he responded to two tornadoes during his time in office in 2011 and 2014. Foremost, the first cyclone case study will be the Joplin, Missouri case. A tornado struck Joplin on May 22, 2011, and caused extensive damage of debris, "116 casualties and 1,371 injuries for 6 miles" (Condon 2011; FEMA 2011, 8-9). The racial demographics of Joplin according to the "United States Census Bureau" for 2010 was majority White with 87.6%, following Blacks with 3.3%, Latinos 4.5%, and Asians with 1.6%. Nevertheless, a natural disaster showed no mercy for this majority white city. This deadly tornado devastated Joplin city to the point where President Obama, according to CBS News Reporter Stephanie Condon (2011), came to Joplin to assess the damage after his tour in Europe. Likewise, Condon (2011) reported that FEMA's director Craig Fugate had already visited Joplin to work with state and local officials to aid the victims in the aftermath. This observation shows that even without the presence of the president the federal agencies can handle their duties in a professional and prompt manner to show their concern and expertise in beginning the recovery stage.
Respectively, President Obama did declare Joplin a presidentially declared area a day after the incident, which allowed FEMA to give their assistance to Joplin in an efficient manner. Per a report by New York Daily News reporter Helen Kennedy (2011), the recovery began a week later when Obama preached a sermon commemorating the lives lost saving others before themselves; yet reiterating that Joplin was not alone in this process and that he and his team was right behind them. This promise by Obama became fulfilled after one month had passed. The federal agencies teamed with local agencies to assist individuals in rebuilding their homes with "nearly $14 million dollars" and "assistance from over 32,000 volunteers from AmeriCorps" (One Month After the Joplin Tornado: Disaster Recovery Efforts in Missouri Continues" 2011). With this scene of outpouring love and dedication to restoring Joplin, Missouri, to its former glory gave it a chance to improve significantly five years later. Eric Adler and Laura Bauer (2016) reports that even though Missouri have some scars from the tornado that formed through problems with depression and PTSD. The residents overall are happy to see Joplin in a new state through the construction of a new high school, hospital, tornado shelters in new buildings, and sculptures inspired by the storm to show the resilience of the city (Adler and Bauer 2016).

Therefore, this effort of love, support, and determination by friends and strangers near and far allowed Joplin to recover farther than they imagined, even though there is still more work to be done with the psychological damage caused by the tornado. Also, this recovery process shows that the aftermath of a cyclone can be a long-term process of recovery not only physically but also mentally as well and take many years to rid of its effect on a community. Nevertheless, President Obama's supportive nature wins again in this case and will be shown again in his response to Arkansas in 2014.
According to FEMA's article, "Arkansas Severe Storms, Tornadoes, and Flooding," a tornado struck on April 27-28, 2014. It hit not only Arkansas but Oklahoma and Iowa as well (Vinograd 2014). Nonetheless, the focus of this study will be particularly in Faulkner County, Arkansas. According to Cassandra Vinograd (2014), this particular county was struck by the tornado, and "more than ten people died with 150 homes destroyed." The “United States Census Bureau’s” racial demographics for Faulkner County accounts for 84.3% White, following Blacks at 10.2%, Latinos at 3.9%, and Asians at 1.1%. Nevertheless, President Obama still responded a day later to declare Faulkner County a presidentially declared area. The recovery a year later was documented by FEMA's "Lessons in Recovery: Case Study on Recovering Through Partnerships" (2015, 2), which showed evidence of FEMA partnering with other governmental, state, and regional agencies who were experts on advising residents and the local government on the recovery phase.

An example is FEMA and the Economic Development Administration offering the Central Arkansas Planning and Development District a grant to economically help Faulkner County recovery. The economic plan included pursuing building projects that will boost their economy in areas where the racial, economic gap was wider to lessen it ("Lessons in Recovery: Case Study on Recovering Through Partnerships" 2015, 4-5). Also, the recovery phase included President Obama touring the communities of Arkansas a month later assessing the damage (Gannett Washington Bureau 2014). Three years later, CCED Project Coordinator Shelby Fiegel (2016) reported that both affected communities within Faulkner County: Vilonia and Mayflower had made significant changes in improving their community. The improvements are focusing on "economic development" and establishing "vision meetings" to make both communities more resilient to take care of its own during another natural disaster (Fiegel 2016). Overall, it seems
that both President Nixon and President Obama were true public servants in granting aid quickly and overseeing the recovery phase of the various communities affected, regardless of any bias towards race. Also, President Obama’s sincere concern and determination to help minority communities and majority white communities showed evidence that he influenced both communities to work together. Through, the leadership of the federal government taking charge, the mistrust between them and the minority no longer existed because the federal government was present in their situation and were helping the community and the local government with the recovery phase. Therefore, the primary goal for the community, the federal government, and local government was a commitment to put aside mistrust and differences to improve the lives of the victims and to include improvement of institutional policies to close the economic gap among races so that the community can have a fresh equitable start.

The next analysis will be the actions of President Trump to test if he is truly a public servant to all Americans during their hour of need. This study will include the first winter storm in January 2017 that struck two states, Mississippi and Georgia. The presidential election of Donald Trump was an election that was one of a surprise to all Americans around the world. As president, Donald Trump pledged to put American needs first in all things. Ironically, during his first week, it seemed that mother-nature was testing his will to keep his promise as a servant to the American people.

On January 21st-22nd, 2017, two states Mississippi and southern Georgia were hit hard by a series of tornados and a death toll of 20 people (Johnson and Silva 2017). It seemed that President Trump was absent from the picture as local government officials begged for his help; however, S.A. Miller (2017) reported that Trump called Georgia's Governor Nathan Deal to offer his condolences, but it seems he did not do the same for Mississippi's Governor.
Correspondingly, one of the affected areas from the tornado in Mississippi was Lauderdale County and its racial demographics according to "United States Census Bureau" of 2015 is majority White at 54.4%, following Blacks at 43.2%, Latinos at 2.2%, and Asians 0.8%. While, one of Georgia's counties, Cook County based on "United States Census Bureau's" Census 2015 is majority White with 69.8% following Blacks at 27.8%, Latinos at 5.9%, and Asians at 0.8%. It is very tempting to state race as a factor, but Mississippi's Governor Phil Bryant and Georgia's Government Nathan Deal are both white, both affiliate themselves with the Republican Party and the racial demographics of both states were majority white as well. Also, 5-6 days later, President Trump declared Mississippi and Georgia presidentially declared major disaster areas and gave permission to FEMA to assist them (Ott, 2017 and "President Trump Declares Major Disaster for Georgia," 2017). Therefore, the only possible reason left to explain his actions of condolence towards Georgia and not for Mississippi could be an oversight or already formed political ties.

An update is critical to show the efforts of President Trump to oversee or assist in the recovery phase of both Mississippi and Georgia as former President Obama did before him. Unfortunately, President Trump did not respond in a timely fashion nor did he assist in the recovery phase of both Mississippi and Georgia. Thus, this update indicates that President Donald Trump is incompetent to handle emergencies that require more of his time to be a public figure helping victims restore their lives and aiding in that process with the teamwork and support of federal and local agencies. This absence of being a public figure during times of distress is also ironic because it portrays a distant relationship between him as the head of the American government and the whites of low or poverty status who trusted him to be a servant to the American people when he promised to make America great again. This distance relationship
of Trump’s incompetence and unfulfilled obligations to help those in poverty increased with the actions of the federal government agencies under his command. An example is FEMA who seems to be working more with the victims of Mississippi than of Georgia. FEMA's article "Mississippi in Recovery: A Month After the January Tornadoes (2017)" claims that FEMA has been granting at least "$5.7 million of federal aid" to homeowners. However, there is much support from the non-profit, faith-based organizations in Mississippi to carry on the work of rebuilding the state. While, in Georgia, FEMA's hostile actions are shown based on the federal agency shutting down two major centers in Crisp and Turner County at the end of February (Monk 2017). Even though Monk (2016) reports that the agency insisted on victims to reach them by phone; this still shows a backward shift where Trump’s presidential administration and the agencies under it are withdrawing from the situation and leaving the state and local agencies to take care of the needs of the victims.

Overall, a discussion is necessary to analyze further the role of the government and its institutions from 2005 to 2017. The literature review posed a question that inquired if a change could occur in the federal government’s discriminatory actions and responses towards minorities? The examination of three recent presidencies reveals there can be both a correction and a setback based on the president’s desire to learn from his mistakes and change for the better. As shown in the cases of the hurricanes, Bush and FEMA quickly learned from Katrina in 2005 how institutional racism continuously played a role in social vulnerability through placing blacks in high susceptible areas where they are vulnerable to disasters more frequently than those placed in low-susceptible areas. Likewise, the federal government learned from Katrina the importance of being active in the community and efficient in their methods to financially aid and support the victims. This valuable lesson was proven many times with Bush’s next predecessor, Barack
Obama. During his administration, for both the cases of the tornadoes and the hurricanes, he showed a desire not to repeat the history of Katrina. He implemented a strategy where the federal government would no longer be a negative one that gave states the responsibility alone to take care of its citizens. Rather, he began a partnership between the state and local government to work as a team responding to the natural disaster beforehand and afterward helping in the process of recovery and mitigation for the future. Also, as a public figure, Obama made sure to act out the principles of change, equality, and teamwork in the communities of whites and minorities. As an example, his campaign echoed a sentiment of being stronger together; while, learning from previous mistakes to build a safer and stronger community against the next natural disaster or potential threat. He showed this in every case by traveling to the area affected, assessing the damages, and working with local leaders to use their awareness of the disaster as a tool to recover and improve their city or county better in the long-run. Two examples of Obama's success from this concept of teamwork and equality is none other than Joplin and Arkansas. Both cities during the recovery stage had a transformative experience where Arkansas improved their economy through a new building project that addressed decreasing poverty and the racial and economic gap. While Joplin reflected on the policies addressing natural disasters by replacing old and dilapidated buildings with newer ones equipped with tornado shelters.

Nevertheless, the work of progressive change could bring along the way a setback once the presidencies change every four years. Luckily, Obama was able to do so much during his two terms in office in rebuilding America from the recession to the present day. However, it seems that there is a repealing of his efforts by the Republican Party and its presidential candidate, Donald Trump. This setback is noted in his actions and the government agencies under him in their delayed response to help two states that have a majority white population living in poverty
and leaving the states to care for their needs. Therefore, this lack of participation during the recovery from President Trump can be a definite outlier from Obama’s idea of a partnership between the federal and the state because of the absence of the federal government in state government's domestic concerns during the Trump Administration.

This outlier brings another question to how presidents learn over the years? It seems that President Bush learned from his post-Katrina experience which passed down to the Obama Administration through the acquiring of knowledge and understanding of Bush's mistake; however, this passing of knowledge appears to stop at the Trump Administration. The reason could be that politically the Republicans felt the country was not governed properly under President Obama. Therefore the learning stage of the presidents seems to be blurred by the lines of affiliation of political parties and their values and perspectives of how the American government should govern the people. For the Republican Party, it is a more conservative approach allowing the citizens of America to survive by their will with no federal aid; while, the Democratic Party's liberal motto is to help people get a head start in life with federal assistance.

To conclude, the Katrina effect has justified itself in the alteration of policies and ideas to change the federal government’s responsibility to first, being servants to the people and second being servants to their political beliefs. Now the effect of Katrina is decaying within the Trump’s administration who seems to focus on administering policies connected to Republican values than the voice of the people who are crying out for a public leader who is for the people’s successes and not their failures.
Broader Implications and Conclusions

Primarily, the three most important points of this research were to first, discover and test new data to extract information that gave evidence if the mistrust still lingered between the federal government and the minority communities. Second, assess if the government can learn from past lessons. Third, confirm if distrust formed through deepening economic and racial divides caused by government actions. The results of the recovery from the ten cases total showed evidence that mistrust between the minority community and the government began to fade gradually as the federal government and FEMA began to demonstrate leadership. This demonstration included not only initiating but also influencing the communities to come together and form new procedures and practices preventing future natural disasters and increasing impartial economic development among races from poor, middle class, and rich statuses. However, once the government began pulling back from initiating change and new procedures with the local administration to prevent natural disasters, then the feelings of mistrust and even betrayal began to linger again among the government, the minority community, and even the whites living in poverty or low status.

Eight years before the Trump Administration, the commitment of teamwork among the communities, the federal and local government, and non-profit organizations gave the areas devastated by the hurricanes and tornadoes a gradual improvement throughout the years of recovery and even exceeded the expectations of the individuals in the community. The reason was that of the new practices that were put in place to prevent the pattern of suffering and loss from the natural disasters. Correspondingly, the results also confirmed that Hurricane Katrina and its recovery stage was a lesson of not only how dynamic race is within institutional practices but also how racially and economically fragmented communities can become with a divisive
federal and local government. Therefore, it is safe to confirm that mistrust formed through deepening economic and racial divides caused by government actions before Hurricane Katrina and afterward with the positioning of blacks and other minorities in areas prone to high risk, poverty, and crime.

Nonetheless, the results also confirmed the presidential administration made improvements to better their practices in responding to natural disasters. It began with the small change that President Bush made in Hurricane Rita and continued extensively into President Obama's two terms in office. President Obama was truly a man of great worth and valued the determination of the human spirit to better themselves and learn from their mistakes. However, Obama's efforts to create a public service government to make individual American communities resilient again after a natural disaster seems to be declining and taking a backward turn to a negative state with Donald Trump's administration leaving the communities especially those in poverty struggling on their own.

This research is significant beyond the existing work because it tested new information on how natural disasters affected the lives of victims through the interconnected concepts of race, political ideologies, and responses from the president and federal agencies to send aid. The results came out with two answers: if delayed, as in the case of Hurricane Katrina, this would eventually lead to an effect of a widening economic gap among races and a tolerance for institutional racism within local governments during recovery. The second one is if it is prompt then it would lead to an advantage of teamwork among the community members, federal and local governments, and nonprofit organizations. With this knowledge, it is shown to the political scientists and the community as a whole precisely how race is a driving force in institutional racism in both the federal and local governments areas. Race as the effect could cause racial and
economic division during a time of improvement and turn it to one of confusion and more chaos than before. Hence, the lesson for the political scientists and community as a whole is to begin the support and concern early in the process from the federal government down to the individual members. The primary focus could be on improving not only the prevention of loss from a natural disaster but also economic fairness in the community.

Also, the research implies five important results from the literature and evidence presented in the tornado and hurricane cases. First, consistent with the literature, the government’s responses to Katrina did indicate racial bias. Second, contrary to the expectation of the literature, post-Katrina disasters did not show responses of racial prejudice. Third, the government's reply is highly dependent on the President’s political ideology as indicated by the change in response rates by President Obama and Trump. Fourth, interestingly enough President Trump’s slow response rate affected poor white communities. Thus, due to a lack of evidence on poor black communities, there cannot be a confirmation to stipulate on racial bias in Trump’s response rates. Fourth, results show that as time passes after Katrina, response rates are further lengthening economic and racial disparities. Fifth, the lessons learned after Katrina appears not to be affecting government policy permanently.

Therefore, from these results, the research community and other future political scientists should eagerly investigate more on the various improvements that affected natural disaster areas use to improve their community. Also, they should give an analysis of an estimated timeframe of how long it takes diverse communities to recover from a natural disaster and implement their new strategies before relapsing back to their old practices of racial and economic division among races. Above all, the political science community should always remember that race is a dynamic
phenomenon and must be handled responsibly as a means to unite all Americans together; instead of one to divide.
Bibliography


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<td>Wildfire Montana</td>
<td>Sanders County</td>
<td>None found for 1910. Census 2015 White: 91.7% Latino: 2.9% Asian: 0.5% Black: 0.4%</td>
<td>Foreign Born 2.6% No US Born Found</td>
<td>1910</td>
<td>Taft (R)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1 day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildfire Tennessee</td>
<td>Gatlinburg</td>
<td>Census 2010 White: 85.32% Latino: 15.04% Asian: 2.81% Black: 0.63%</td>
<td>Foreign Born 2.6% No US Born Found</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Obama (D)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>6 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Figure 3: Table for Tornadoes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Natural Disasters and States</th>
<th>Cities/Counties</th>
<th>Race for Cities (IV)</th>
<th>US Born or Foreign Born Latinos</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>President and Political Party (D) for Democrat and (R) for Republican</th>
<th>President’s Response (Rejection= no/ Approve= yes) (DV)</th>
<th>How Quickly Based on Days (DV)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tornado Mississippi</td>
<td>Copiah County</td>
<td>None in 1969, Census 2015 Black: 51.4% White: 46.9% Latino: 2.9% Asian: 0.4%</td>
<td>Foreign Born: 2.5% No US Born</td>
<td>1969</td>
<td>Nixon (R)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tornado Missouri</td>
<td>Joplin County</td>
<td>Census 2010 White: 87.6% Black: 3.3% Latino: 4.5% Asian: 1.6%</td>
<td>Foreign Born: 2.6% No US Born</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Obama (D)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1 day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tornado Arkansas</td>
<td>Faulkner County</td>
<td>Census 2010 White: 84.3% Black: 10.2% Latino: 3.9% Asian: 1.1%</td>
<td>Foreign Born: 2.9% No US Born</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Obama (D)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1 day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tornado Mississippi</td>
<td>Lauderdale County</td>
<td>Census 2015 White: 54.4% Black: 43.2% Latino: 2.2% Asian: 0.8%</td>
<td>Foreign Born: 1.8% No US Born</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Trump (R)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>5 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tornado Georgia</td>
<td>Cook County</td>
<td>Census 2015 White: 69.8% Black: 27.8% Latino: 5.9% Asian: 0.8%</td>
<td>Foreign Born: 3.1% No US Born</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Trump (R)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>6 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix A

The Procedure for Obtaining Federal Assistance in a Natural Disaster

First, to help the US Citizens and Qualified Aliens for natural disasters, whether a hurricane, tornadoes or a wildfire, they both have to go through the same thorough procedure in receiving financial assistance from FEMA. According to FEMA’s “Apply for Assistance,” the required documents are: “Social Security number, pre-disaster address, current address, insurance, total household annual income, routing and account number of both the savings and checking accounts.” Last, is the "description of your disaster-caused damages and losses" ("Apply for Assistance"). Furthermore, FEMA grants one type of support, which is “Individual Disaster Assistance” (“Apply for Assistance”).

Second, according to FEMA’s “Individual Disaster Assistance” page, FEMA covers several items under the Individual Disaster Assistance. They are “temporary housing, lodging reimbursements, permanent or semi-permanent housing construction, replacement, repair, medical and dental care, child care, funeral and burial, household items, moving and storage, vehicle, and some cleanup items" ("Individual Disaster Assistance"). However, FEMA makes it clear that they only target areas that have been presidentially-declared a natural disaster and works with partnered agencies that take care of small businesses such as the “Small Business Administration” that administers a “low-interest loans” to small business owners (“Individual Disaster Assistance”). Also, FEMA's "Individual Disaster Assistance" states the government agency's priority is to conduct home inspections as part of the requirement before giving grants to applicants from their agency, if the investigation proves them ineligible for the subsidies, they can appeal.
Last, those who are undocumented immigrants can apply as Qualified Aliens and have several options to receive grant money. To be a Qualified Alien they must have a “legal permanent resident card or green card, an asylum status, Cuban-Haitian entrants and fill out a Declaration and Release Form” (“Eligibility Requirements for Disaster Aid”). Also, they have to rely on “one of their household members or their child as a United States citizen to receive assistance and even state, local, and volunteer agencies for assistance” (“Eligibility Requirements for Disaster Aid”). Overall, the procedure to receive federal grants from FEMA to US Citizens and Qualified Aliens is based on a strict policy to make sure the survivors in need are being taken care of equally with intent care and attention to their financial needs.
Appendix B

The Case of Wildfires

The second category of natural disasters that will be analyzed is none other than wildfires. Additionally, FEMA responds to fires which are less prone but very deadly. According to "US Disaster Statistics," "only 3% of people are affected by them;" but they can cost significant casualties. The first fatal fire recorded was none other than in Idaho in 1910 with 78 fatalities ("Wildland Fire Fatalities by Year"). Equivalently, this forest fire, known as the "Big Blowup" not only spread in Idaho but to two other states, Montana and Washington, which totaled the casualties at 85 ("The 1910 Fires" and "Wildland Fire Fatalities by Year"). Also, in the absence of racial demographics from 1910, it seems the three states were majority white during the time: 93.8% in Idaho, 91.3% in Washington, and 91.7% in Montana respectively ("United States Census Bureau"). Even though FEMA was nonexistent during this time span, there was another agency participating in this disaster. According to "The 1910 Fires," there was an organization known as the Forest Service, who vowed to protect the civilians and the forest from wildfires. This spectacular agency was faithful to its mission as they helped local firefighters fight the fires that had consumed "3 million acres of public and private land." ("The 1910 Fires"). The President at that time was none other than the President William Howard Taft, and his response to the fire was not of his will, but of the persuasion of the Fire Society ("The 1910 Fires"). Once the fire was eliminated, and the damages assessed, the plan to create better prevention of wildfires became set in motion.

As the years passed and President Carter created the Federal Emergency Management Agency, it seemed FEMA was the central leading government agency to help prevent disasters
and natural recovery under the instructions of the president. Recently, the citizens of the United States were struck by a deadly fire in the winter of 2016 in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. According to the "Gatlinburg, Tennessee Population (2012)," Gatlinburg is a city in southern Tennessee that has a racial demographic majority White as 85.32% with Latinos following at 15.04%, Asians at 2.81%, and Blacks at 0.63%. As reported by Knoxville (Tenn.) News Sentinel (2016), the wildfire caused "14 deaths and damaged more than 2,400 structures in Gatlinburg." The whole city was experiencing a traumatic experience, and Governor Haslam was anxious to give them federal relief (Boucher 2016). Still, his actions to be proactive became delayed five days later when President Obama signed an action for FEMA to provide Gatlinburg financial assistance.

This monetary gift became a miracle to the citizens of Gatlinburg were FEMA reported 408 approvals for individuals to receive assistance with a total number of $3,032,182.52 for aid and household programs ("Tennessee Wildfires"). Nevertheless, it is important to note the difference between the 1910 wildfire and the 2016 wildfire in the next paragraph. The 1910 wildfire was the fault of nature; while the 2016 wildfire was human-made that turned deadly. Conforming to this fact, Dave Boucher (2016) reports that two teenagers started the fire in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park and it spread throughout five counties. The most recent wildfire is a reminder that natural disasters can come from the hands of humans as well as storms and nature itself. Therefore, whichever way it forms, FEMA must be prepared and ready to assist.

In regards to the actions of President Obama and his first and last delay in approving aid, there can be an explainable reason for his hesitation. First, again this was not a natural disaster that he could track but was one caused by the unpredictable behavior of human nature
that involved the local judiciary system in investigating the causes of the wildfire firsthand before the involvement of the federal government. Nevertheless, President Obama did respond less than a week, and there is no evidence that the racial demographic of Gatlinburg caused his delay.